



Networking Black Print: Reimagining Black Bibliography

Conference Schedule

April 9-10, 2026

Thursday, April 9 Alexander Library, Rutgers University-New Brunswick

Teleconference Lecture Hall, 4th Floor

9:00 am: Registration, coffee, and light breakfast

9:30-9:45: Welcome

9:45-11:15: **Introducing the BBP database** (*Teleconference Lecture Hall*)

Black Bibliography Project Core Team: [Jacqueline Goldsby](#) (Yale), [Meredith McGill](#) (Rutgers), [Amanda Awanjo](#) (Yale), [Mara Caelin](#) (Yale), and [Tajah Ebram](#) (Rutgers)

11:30-12:45: **The Preservation of Black Print** (*Teleconference Lecture Hall*)

Librarians and curators discuss on-the-ground challenges faced by those who create and maintain Black print collections in this cultural and political moment. What pressures or concerns surface with regard to acquisitions, preservation, access, and description? What insights have new trends in stewardship, as well as new technologies (including, but not limited to linked data), yielded to keep Black print collections available and usable for researchers and readers?

[Raquel Flores-Clemons](#) (Chicago Public Library, Vivian G. Harsh Collection); [Jennifer Garcon](#) (Princeton University Library); [Christina Vortia](#) (formerly, Howard University, Moorland-Spingarn Collection)

Moderator: [Mara Caelin](#)

1:00-1:45: **Lunch** *Teleconference Lecture Hall Lobby, 4th floor*

1:45-3:00 Concurrent hands-on sessions:

- (1) Beta testing of the BBP Database ([Alexander Library, IHL Classrooms 413 and 415](#))
- (2) Letterpress workshop ([Murray Hall 303](#))
- (3) Open Conversation on Sustainability ([Pane Room 157, Alexander Library](#))

3:00: Coffee break (*Teleconference Lecture Hall*)

3:15-4:00 Lightning talks 1 (4 x 5 minutes each) (*Teleconference Lecture Hall*)

Black Bibliography Project Fellows present quick five minute talks that highlight their research interests, bibliographic finds while doing data entry, and other fieldnotes from their work with the Black Bibliography Project.

Black Bibliography Project Fellows: [Arabella Katz](#) (Yale), [Brittany Marshall](#) (Rutgers), [Sydney Smith](#) (Rutgers), and [Christopher Valentine](#) (Yale)

Moderator: [Meredith McGill](#)

4:15-5:15 Black Books and Visual Culture (*Teleconference Lecture Hall*)

Artists working in the Book arts discuss their work in the context of the history of Black book design.

[Jaamal Benjamin](#) (Wesleyan University) and [Sam Vernon](#) (Pratt)

Moderators: [Kristin Owens](#) (New York University) and [Amanda Awanjo](#) (Yale)

5:30-6:30 Plenary Conversation: “The Future of Black Print Collections
(*Teleconference Lecture Hall & overflow in TLH Lobby*)

Directors and Curators of major Black archival collections discuss the past, present, and possible futures for Black print materials’ institutional formations. What histories of risk and threat have Black print collections faced, and what lessons do those pasts have to teach us now? What might Black Print Collections look like in 50 years’ time, in terms of their content and scope, their access and use, their sustainability and impact?

Welcome, Dr. [Consuella Askew](#), Vice President for University Libraries and University Librarian, Rutgers University

[Melissa Barton](#) (Curator, Prose & Drama, Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Library, Yale); [Kathe Hambrick](#) (Executive Director, Amistad Research Center, New Orleans); [Joy L. Bivins](#) (Director, Schomburg Research Center, New York Public Library); [Carla Hayden](#) (Senior Fellow, Mellon Foundation and Former Librarian of Congress)

Moderators: [Jacqueline Goldsby](#) (Yale) and [Meredith McGill](#) (Rutgers)

Friday, April 10 [Alexander Library \(Teleconference Lecture Hall\)](#)

8:30 am: **Coffee and light breakfast for workshop participants**

9:00-10:15: **Concurrent sessions:**

- (1) Beta testing of the BBP Database ([Alexander Library IHL Classrooms 413 & 415](#))
- (2) Letterpress workshop ([Murray Hall 303](#));
- (3) Working group meetings ([Pane Room 157, Alexander Library](#))

10:30-11:45 am. **Black Digital Humanities** (Teleconference Lecture Hall)

Leading scholars in Black Digital Humanities will take the pulse of the field and reflect on its relationship to the Black Bibliographic tradition. What insights into Black texts have digital approaches provided? What challenges and opportunities lie ahead? What would it take to build digital projects and infrastructures that endure?

[Marisa Parham](#) (University of Maryland), [Richard Jean So](#) (Duke University), and [Kenton Ramsby](#) (Howard University)

Moderator: [Tajah Ebram](#)

12:00-1:15: **Lunch** *Teleconference Lecture Hall Lobby*

1:30-2:45 Reimagining Scholarship with the BBP Database

(Teleconference Lecture Hall)

Black Bibliography Project Graduate Student Fellows present original research that has been shaped by their work with the project. Their papers draw on Black Book History, bibliographic criticism, and the Black Bibliography Project database and its textual corpora.

[Asya Taylor](#) (Yale), [Mitchell Edwards](#) (Rutgers), [Kristine Guillaume](#) (Yale), [Jordan Sanders](#) (Rutgers)

Moderator: [Ruthie Block](#) (Yale)

2:45 Coffee break *(Teleconference Lecture Hall)*

3:00-4:15: The Movement of Black Books *(Teleconference Lecture Hall)*

Field-shaping rare book collectors, booksellers, and rare book and manuscript dealers discuss their roles in recovering Black print for public and private use. What innovations in their practices have shaped public and private access to Black print materials? Between born-digital Black writing, on the one hand, and the rapid advent of AI, on the other, what possible futures lie ahead for the movement of Black-authored, Black published print?

[Walter O. Evans](#) (private collector), [Katie Mitchell](#) (bookstore owner and author of *Prose to the People*), [Rebecca Romney](#) (author, co-owner and rare book dealer, Type Punch Matrix)

Moderator: [Laura Helton](#) (University of Delaware)

4:30-6:00 Plenary Conversation 2: Black Bibliography and the Practice of Black Studies *(Teleconference Lecture Hall)*

Leading scholars in Black Book History address and forecast how bibliographic criticism—its past practices and current innovations, its “mainstream” and “Black” modes—promises to influence the field of African American and Black Diaspora literary studies.

[Elizabeth McHenry](#) (New York University), [Kinohi Nishikawa](#) (Princeton), [Howard](#)

[Rambsy, II](#) (Southern Illinois University Edwardsville) [Derrick Spires](#) (University of Delaware)

Moderators: [Jacqueline Goldsby](#) (Yale) and [Meredith McGill](#) (Rutgers)

6:00 Closing Reception ([Alexander Library Teleconference Lecture Hall Lounge](#))